

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NICOSI 00173 201759Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-06 TRSE-00 LAB-04
SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-06 AGRE-00 /088 W
-----084441 211016Z /23

R 201745Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7102
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 0173

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD, EEC, CY
SUBJECT: EC/CYPRUS ASSOCIATION: MINISTERIAL LOBBYING APPEARS
SUCCESSFUL

REFS: (A) BRUSSELS 1072; (B) NICOSIA 0040; (C) NICOSIA 057.

1. MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY PIERIDES RETURNED
FROM BRUSSELS, JANUARY 19, MILDLY HOPEFUL THAT EC FOREIGN
MINISTERS NOW RECOGNIZE POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS OF EC/CYPRUS
ASSOCIATION ISSUE. ACCORDING TO MINCOM OFFICIALS, PIERIDES
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OPTIMISTIC THAT FOREIGN MINISTERS' DECISION, JANUARY 17,
TO AUTHORIZE MORE FLEXIBLE APPROACH TO NEGOTIATIONS WITHIN
PRESENT MANDATE WILL RESULT IN SATISFACTORY
CONCESSIONS BEING GRANTED.

2. MINCOM DIRGEN ELIADES HAS REMAINED BRUSSELS
IN ORDER LEAD GOC DELEGATION WHEN NEGOTIATIONS

RESUME JANUARY 24. HE WILL BE JOINED BY SENIOR LEVEL MINCOM, MINAG, AND MINFIN, OFFICIALS WHO ARE PRESENTLY PUTTING FINAL TOUCHES ON EXPANDED NEGOTIATING PACKAGE DESIGNED TO BE RESPONSIVE TO COMMISSION REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON EXACTLY WHAT GOC SEES TO BE UNACCEPTABLE IN CURRENT COMMUNITY MANDATE.

3. FYI ONLY. MINCOM OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD US IN CONFIDENCE THAT RESTRUCTURED GOC NEGOTIATING POSITIONS SEEKS TARIFF CONCESSION TO OVERALL FIGURE OF 5 PERCENT FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE AND REDUCTION OF REFERENCE PRICE FOR CYPRUS SHERRY. THEY WILL ARGUE THAT TARIFF OF OVER BUT UNDER 10 PERCENT AND WILL REDUCE CYPRUS EXPORTS BY ALMOST 50 PERCENT AND ANYTHING OVER 10 PERCENT WILL EFFECTIVELY EXCLUDE CYPRUS FROM EUROPEAN MARKET EVEN IF APPLICATION DATES ARE MADE CONSIDERABLY MORE FLEXIBLE THAN THOSE CONTAINED IN PRESENT MANDATE. REDUCTION TO 70 PERCENT OF PRESENT TARIFF WILL BE SOUGHT FOR SHERRY. "KEY", HOWEVER, IS ELIMINATION OF REFERENCE PRICES FOR CYPRUS SHERRY SALES IN U.K. AT MINIMUM GOC WILL REQUEST THAT REFERENCE PRICE BE LOWERED TO CURRENT LEVEL OF SELLING PRICES IN U.K. END FYI.
CRAWFORD

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NNN

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